workers are getting lesser wages than the prescribed minimum wages and also the welfare measures have not been implemented to them; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against the manufacture of beedi and cigar for not giving the minimum wages to the women labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the responsibility of the State Governments to enforce the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Equal Remuneration Act., 1976 in the beedi and cigar industry. The State Governments have been addressed from time to time to ensure stricter enforcement of these Acts.

Preservation of Milk by Irradiation

2186. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scientists at NDRI Karnal are working on preservation of milk by irradiation as reported in the Indian Dairyman of February-March 1988 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that irradiation of food has not been cleared in U.K. due to lack of knowledge on safety Irradiation;

(c) whether Government have seen research findings of Japanese and American workers which reveal dangers of even low level radiation, even after 40 years Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and

(d) whether EEC had banned entry of all farm products within 1000 kms of Chernobyl and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. But the ban was for a short duration until the member countries reached an agreement to control the import of the farm products after checking the level of radioactivity for safety purpose.

Export of Milk Products

2187. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of indigenous milk products abroad;

(b) whether in view of phenomenal increase in milk production Govenrmnet propose to export indigenous milk products by banning manufacture of cheese, ice-creams and other western type fancy fluid milk and milk products;

(c) whether it is a fact that free use of tetrapaks for fancy product for the rich is helping denude our forests further; and

(d) whether Government are aware that former late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi rejected Tetrapak proposal on two occasions and if so, the reasons for giving clearance now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No assessment has been made regarding demand of indigenous milk products abroad.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(c) No, Sir.